
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Two Food Service Facilities Impacted by Nationwide Strawberry Recall

GRAND RAPIDS – Recently, the Kent County Health Department was alerted by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services regarding an ongoing recall of frozen strawberries sold to certain commercial food service establishments. These strawberries are believed to be connected to a Hepatitis A outbreak nationwide. Because these strawberries may have been consumed over the past few months, there are two very important concerns for Health Department staff: the risk of people becoming ill with Hepatitis A, and vaccinating those who may have been exposed before they become ill. Treatment is available for those exposed in the past 14 days. In Kent County, two facilities have served strawberries from the suspected lots in the last two weeks*:

Romano's Macaroni Grill, 5525 28th Street, Grand Rapids, MI 49512 (near I-96)
HCR ManorCare Grand Rapids, 2320 E Beltline SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546

"If you have eaten an item containing strawberries at Macaroni Grill or HRC ManorCare on the Beltline in the last 14 days, you should receive either the Hepatitis A vaccination as soon as possible to try to prevent the illness," said Adam London, Kent County Health Department Administrative Health Officer. "The immunization is only effective up to 14 days after exposure, so it is important to contact your health care provider while you are in the 14 day window. If it has been longer than 14 days, you should be aware of the symptoms of Hepatitis A and if you become ill, contact your health care provider."

Hepatitis A is a highly contagious liver infection that can be spread by eating contaminated food. "If someone has the virus, it is possible for them to transmit the illness to others, especially through food preparation," London added. "As with many viral illnesses, personal hygiene and good handwashing can help prevent the illness from spreading." Symptoms include:

- Jaundice (a yellowing of the skin or eyes)
- Dark urine
- Fever
- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Clay-colored bowel movements

KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and three satellite clinics located in Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.

700 FULLER AVE. NE, GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503

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The Health Department urges individuals who need vaccination to do so as soon as possible. This chart explains the timeline for those who may have been exposed to receive vaccination:

If you ate strawberries at Macaroni Grill on:	If you ate strawberries at HCR ManorCare on:	The last day you can receive the vaccination is:
Friday, October 21	Did not serve	Friday, November 4
Saturday, October 22	Did not serve	Saturday, November 5
Sunday, October 23	Did not serve	Sunday, November 6
Monday, October 24	Monday, October 24	Monday, November 7
Tuesday, October 25	Did not serve	Tuesday, November 8
Wednesday, October 26	Did not serve	Wednesday, November 9
Thursday, October 27	Did not serve	Thursday, November 10
Friday, October 28	Did not serve	Friday, November 11

Many clients at HCR ManorCare are being notified about vaccination opportunities, but it is more difficult to contact those who ate at Macaroni Grill on the days in question. The Kent County Health Department will have nursing staff available to answer questions tonight until 8 p.m. and again Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at 616.632.7204.

***MEDIA PLEASE NOTE: There is a list of restaurants statewide that may have served the recalled frozen strawberries in recent weeks at www.michigan.gov/documents/mdard/Hep_A_List_of_Known_and_Possible_Locations_11042016_1310_540528_7.pdf; however, this list WAS NOT up to date as of 3:00 today. Kent County ONLY has two locations that should be listed. The state site should be updated by 6:00 tonight.**

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